

Message Text

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14

ACTION EA-13

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INFO AMCONSUL HONG KONG

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E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SCUL, CH

SUBJECT: PRC OBJECTIONS TO CUSTOMS, IMMIGRATIONS AND SECURITY
CHECKS FOR VISITING CHINESE DELEGATIONS TO U.S.

1. DURING SEPTEMBER 21 CALL ON CHENG CHI-HUNG, DEPUTY
DIRECTOR, MFA OFFICE OF U.S. AFFAIRS, SHE TOOK THE OCCASION
TO RAISE QUESTION OF IMMIGRATION AND CUSTOMS CHECKS FOR VISITING
CHINESE DELEGATIONS AS WELL AS REQUIREMENT FOR PERSONAL SECURITY CHECKS

PRIOR TO BOARDING AIRCRAFT WHILE TRAVELLING WITHIN THE UNITED
STATES. MISS CHENG EXPLAINED THAT THIS MATTER HAD BEEN
RAISED WITH PRCLO BY DEPARTMENT OFFICERS HARDING AND HILL DURING
SEPTEMBER 14 MEETING IN WASHINGTON. ACCORDING TO CHENG,
PRCLO WAS INFORMED THAT, HENCEFORTH, VISITING CHINESE
PROFESSIONAL DELEGATIONS WILL BE REQUIRED TO UNDERGO
IMMIGRATION AND CUSTOMS FORMALITIES RATHER THAN HAVING THEM
WAIVED AT PORT OF ENTRY. IN ADDITIONA, SHE SAID, DELEGATIONS
TRAVELLING INTERNALLY IN THE UNITED STATES WILL BE SUBJECT TO
SECURITY CHECKS, INCLUDING ELECTRONIC AND PERSONAL SEARCH OF OBJECTS
CARRIED ON THEIR PERSON. SHE NOTED THAT LIBRARIAN GROUP WILL
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BE FIRST TO BE SUBJECT TO THESE PROCEDURES, AND THAT HARDING

AND HILL HAD SAID TWO SIDES COULD EXCHANGE VIEWS ON REVISED PROCEDURES AFTER THIS GROUP'S VISIT.

2. MISS CHENG SAID SHE WANTED TO MAKE PRC POSITION ON THIS MATTER VERY CLEAR. SHE SAID PRC HAD GIVEN ITS ACTIVE SUPPORT TO EXCHANGES BETWEEN OUR TWO PEOPLES EVER SINCE SIGNING OF SHANGHAI COMMUNIQUE IN FEBRUARY 1972. THUS FAR, CHINA HAD PROVIDED PREFERENTIAL TREATMENT FOR ALL AMERICAN VISITORS ENTERING CHINA, WAIVING SUCH THINGS AS CUSTOMS FORMALITIES. U.S. AND CHINESE PRACTICE IN THIS REGARD HAD BEEN BENEFICIAL TO PROMOTION OF FRIENDLY EXCHANGES, SHE SAID, BUT NOW U.S. PROPOSES TO CHANGE PROCEDURES AND REQUIRE ABOVE MENTIONED CHECKS. SHE SAID PRC SIDE FULLY UNDERSTANDS U.S. CONCERN WITH HIJACKING PROBLEMS, BUT PRC POSITION IS VERY CLEAR. NEW U.S. REQUIREMENTS WILL NOT BENEFIT U.S. - PRC EXCHANGES AND PRC CANNOT AGREE TO THIS PRACTICE. SHE NOTED THAT LIBRARIANS WILL LEAVE VERY SOON FOR UNITED STATES AND SAID PRC HOPES U.S. WILL RECONSIDER NEW REQUIREMENTS WHICH WILL AFFECT NORMAL EXCHANGE BETWEEN OUR TWO PEOPLES. USLO OFFICER TOOK NOTE OF PRC VIEWS AND SAID HE WOULD TRANSMIT THEM TO DEPARTMENT IMMEDIATELY.

3. COMMENT: MISS CHENG'S PRESENTATION WAS LOW KEY AND DELIVERED MORE IN SORROW THAN IN ANGER. NEVERTHELESS, SHE CAREFULLY LINKED IMMINENT DEPARTURE OF LIBRARIAN GROUP WITH REQUEST THAT U.S. RECONSIDER ITS POSITION, SUGGESTING THREAT OF CANCELLATION OF TRIP SHOULD WE REFUSE.
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